GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2711
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
BLOOD CHARGES
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued directives to all the Government and voluntary blood banks and hospitals to charge Rs. 250 per unit in lieu of providing blood to the patients;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to provide this facility free of cost to the poor patients and the patients suffering from Thalasema and haemophilia who frequently require blood as a life saving measure?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Yes, Sir. Costing guidelines have been issued, so that those blood banks who would want to recover a part of their processing charges in supplying Blood units can use the guidelines.

(b) For handling of blood including its mandatory testing for transfusion transmitted diseases before it is issued by blood banks, some expenditure is incurred. This expenditure has been estimated to be about Rs.500/- (without including cost of testing of HCV which has subsequently been made mandatory).

(c) In most states, government blood banks do not charge the service charges from poor patients. In case of patients suffering from Thalassaemia and Haemophilia, the guidelines encourage free supply of blood/blood products to them.